

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 12 have been cancelled. Claims 2-11 and 13-22 have been amended herein. Thus, claims 2-11 and 13-22 are currently pending.

The Examiner has acknowledged receipt of five Information Disclosure Statements filed in this case.

The Examiner has object to Fig. 7 on the grounds that it is missing reference number 706.

The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 3-7 and 14-18 are directed to allowable subject matter. The remaining claims have been rejected by the Examiner.

The Office Action has been carefully reviewed. Reconsideration of the grounds for the objection and rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

Response to Office Action

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements ("IDS") filed in connection with this case. Applicants request the Examiner's consideration of the Supplemental IDSs filed August 2, 2002 and March 25, 2004. In addition, the Examiner has returned, but has not initialed all of the references cited on the Supplemental IDS received by the PTO on January 22, 2003. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the same. Finally, Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental IDS identifying three published patent applications, submitted in the IDS received by the PTO September 3, 2002, but identified improperly.

The Applicants submit herewith a corrected Fig. 7.

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's consideration of the claims and indication of allowable subject matter. As claims 1 and 12 have been cancelled, the rejections as to those claims are rendered moot. Claims 3-7 and 14-18 have been amended herein to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 2, 8-11, 13, and 19-22 have been amended to depend from an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objection to and rejection of the pending claims and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

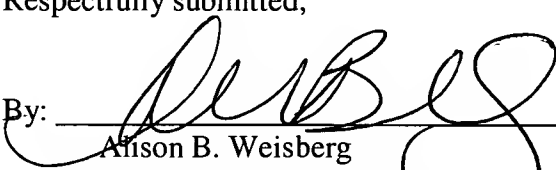
Please charge any fees due in connection with this response, including the fee due for the petition for a one-month extension of time transmitted herewith, any fees due for claims not previously paid for, and any fees due in connection with the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement to our Deposit Account No. **50-0310**.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 2, 2004

By: _____


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